Appendix I.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 476 asked by Sri N. K. Palanisami, Sri A. A. Rasheed and Sri M. P. Sarathi at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 25th February 1961 on page 503 supra.]

On seeing the Press Report, dated 3rd October 1960, that the locust swarm has come down as far as Guntur district in Andhra Pradesh, circular instructions were issued by the Director of Agriculture to all the District Agricultural Officers of border districts in this State for organizing proper precautionary measures against the possible locust swarm into this State. Leaflets also have been distributed to all the District Agricultural Officers for distribution to the ryots on the characteristics of the pest and the heavy havoc that would be caused by this pest and exhorting them, therefore, to co-operate with Government officials in putting down this pest in case of invasions. All the Plant Protection Officers have been alerted in this regard and instructions were issued to form special mobile squads especially in the border districts. Sufficient stock of pesticides like BHC 10 per cent, Folidol, etc., have also been stocked in all agricultural depots. Instructions were also issued to all the Block Development Officers to alert the Gramasevaks to be on constant vigil and to organize control measures whenever called for at short notice. The Collectors of the districts were also requested to render all possible help and to issue suitable instructions to all the Revenue officials to arrange for the announcement through the beat of tom tom in the villages about the nature of this pest and control measures necessary.

2. All the District Agricultural Officers and the Plant Protection staff were instructed to send information about the incidence of this pest immediately on sighting anywhere in this State. No reports have so far been received from any of the officers regarding the prevalence of this pest in this State. The Directors of Agriculture of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Mysore have been addressed so as to ascertain the possible movement of this pest.

3. Regarding the Red Hairy Caterpillar pest, this pest had attacked the groundnut crop in Chellampatti, Usilampatti. Sedapatti, Dharmathupatti and other areas of Madurai district and Pudupatti of Ramanathapuram district. All possible steps to control this pest have been taken by the department by stocking adequate quantities of pesticides, sprayers and dusters in all agricultural depots. Besides concessional sale of pesticides has been resorted to on the representation from Pudupatti village about the large-scale attack of this pest.

4 The District Agricultural Officers, Madurai, Dindigul and Sattur, have been sanctioned a sum of Rs. 10,000, Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 3,000 respectively, for the issue of pesticides at concessional rates as a special case since such concessions are normally available to food crops only.